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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Comments on Availability of Welding Equipment

PLACE ACQUIRED
 (BY SOURCE)

DATE ACQUIRED
 (BY SOURCE)

DATE (OF INFO.)

DOC NO.	
ORR NO.	
DAS NO.	
OCI NO.	

DATE DISTR. 6 DEC 1954

NO. OF PAGES 2

NO. OF ENCLS.

SUPP. TO
 REPORT NO.

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- The equipment supplied the Soviets was a type which is used on general site construction where there are no power lines. The equipment is usually used in outdoor activities only.
- There would be no difficulty in reproducing the equipment fairly readily. It would be necessary to make some dies and presses, but it would not be too difficult to accomplish this if the Soviets desired to copy the equipment.

- the USSR is in no squeeze in the electrical welding field and probably not in gas welding. they are probably as well off although perhaps the quality of their equipment may be somewhat below. However, even this is problematical. high opinion of the Soviet potentiality is based on the fact that the Soviets were one of the first to weld long distances of railroad rails. Over 20 years ago they welded one stretch of eight solid miles of rail.

- In addition to their technical ability, the Soviets would have no difficulties in getting all of the raw materials they needed for the welding industry. In this respect they have unlimited quantities of manganese ore used for welding fluxes.

- The Soviets could also obtain unlimited quantities of electrodes and other welding equipment parts and accessories from Sweden, which has always sold large quantities of high-grade electrodes to the USSR.

- The two principal producers in Sweden are ESSAB, which makes exceptionally good welding rods, and ASEA. I have heard that ESSAB now has a plant in Finland.

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8. The Soviets undoubtedly would be able to pick up anything else they required in Europe, as there were at least a dozen different large-scale manufacturers of welding equipment in Western Europe before World War II.

- 25X1 9. [redacted] visited by a number of Soviet engineers and inspectors and we found them invariably to be smart and well trained in the field of welding. They were extremely fussy about the noise and the balance of the induction motors, which ranged from 1/2 h p to 30 h p. Several of the Soviet inspectors told us that the reason they were so fussy was that while they realized that the noise would not affect the performance of the equipment, it might be considered substandard by other Soviet officials who were not technically trained and they would be shipped off to Siberia for failure to catch non-existent defects in the motors.

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